

Patrick Ellis – Composer

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Profile

I am a composer, performer and curator based in Oxfordshire, UK. My music has been described as being “focused, intense and unrelenting” (Gaudeamus Jury, 2024), with much of my work utilising limited musical materials, small developments and juxtapositions.

Primarily, I compose music for chamber groups, soloists and ensembles; some of which employs the use of fixed media electronics and/or visuals. As I have developed as composer, I have increasingly enjoy close collaboration with the musicians that I am working with.

Alongside composing, I am the Creative Director of PRXLUDes and the Artistic Director of Open Union. PRXLUDes is an online contemporary music magazine, platform, and resource dedicated to the promotion of the most cutting-edge contemporary music of today, with a focus on the work of emerging and early-career composers. Open Union, is an experimental duo that aims to build up strong collaborative relationships to create new works with both living UK and international artists.

Education

2017-19: MMus in Composition, Royal Conservatoire of The Hague, NL
Taught by Martijn Padding and Guus Janssen
2013-17: BMus (Hons) in Composition, Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, UK
Taught by Andrew Hamilton, Seán Clancy, Ed Bennett, Howard Skempton

Composition Courses, Programmes and Residencies

2024: Gaudeamus Academy, Utrecht, NL
2022: Artist Residency De Link and AMPA, Tilburg, NL
2019-20: Psappha Ensemble's Composing For... scheme, UK
2019: Sounding Now Festival, SG
2019: Orkest de Ereprijs International Young Composer's Meeting, NL
2012: Sound and Music Summer School, UK

Awards and Nominations

2024: Gaudeamus International Composers Award Nominee
2022: Young Artist in Residence for De Link and AMPA, Tilburg
2017: Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Composition Prize
2014: Philip Bates Audience Prize for Composers
2013-17: The Conservatoire Scholarship Award for Composition

Selected Ensembles

Ensemble Klang (NL), Terra Invisus (UK), collective lovemusic (FR), Kirkos Ensemble (IE), Tantrum Saxophone Quartet (NL), Xtro Percussion (NL), Spaceship Ensemble (NL), Kluster 5 (NL), The New European Ensemble (NL), Orkest de Ereprijs (NL), Residentie Orkest (NL) and 315 Ensemble (US).

Selected Soloists

Dauphine Van der Velphen (BE), Laura Sinnerton (UK), Huw Morgan (UK), Carson Cooman (US), Fenella Humphreys (UK), Chris Cresswell (US), Kathryn Williams (UK) and Alfian Adytia (ID).

Notable Performances in Festivals and Concert Seasons

Lilium SoundART (IT, 2025), Sounding Here (NL, 2025), Gaudeamus (NL, 2024, 2022), Rainy Days Festival (LU, 2024), CLICK Fest (US, 2024), AzTak Festival (PL, 2024), November Music NL, 2022), Tracking Tilburg (NL, 2022), Union Musicale, (IT, 2022), De Link Tilburg (NL, 2022 and 2019), Mittelfest and Mittelyoung Festival (IT, 2021), Festival Dag in de Branding (NL, 2021, 2018), Kirkos Biosphere Festival (IE, 2020), Spring Festival The Hague (NL, 2020, 2019, 2018), Ideas of Noise Festival (UK, 2020) and Kammer Klang, (UK, 2018)

Discography

2024: Revisited, Repurposed for organ on Huw Morgan's 2024 Highlights, part 2 (Self-Release on Bandcamp by Huw Morgan)
2021: Combinations, Phrases for viola on Laura Sinnerton's Inner Voices (Birmingham Record Company)
2019: Breath, Patterns, Bends for flute on Kathryn Williams' Coming Up for Air (Huddersfield Contemporary Records)

Broadcasts

2024: Between Two Trios (2022) on NPO Klassiek (NL)
2022: Fractured Motion (2022) on Concertzender (NL)
2022: Unbranded Ensemble Piece (2017) on WCNY (US)
2021: Components (2018) on Stranded FM [for Gaudeamus Festival] (NL)
2019: Unfolding Chamber Piece (2018) on Concertzender (NL)
2018: Components (2018) on NPO Radio 4 (NL)

PRXLUDES

In 2023, I became the Creative Director of PRXLUDES, an online contemporary music magazine, platform, and resource dedicated to the promotion of the most cutting-edge contemporary music of today, with a focus on the work of emerging and early-career composers.

We specialises in in-depth interviews with composers, ensembles, and organisations promoting the work of emerging artists. PRXLUDES publishes monthly issues on the third Monday of every month, consisting of interviews diving into the practices of emerging composers — alongside special features with ensembles and new music organisations, guest articles, track-by-track analyses, and more.

Open Union

Since 2021, I have been the co-artistic director of Open Union, an electric guitar and modular synth duo. We aim to build up strong collaborative relationships to create new verbal and text based works. Our current collaborators are Christine Comwell, Wilson Leywantono, May Chi, Paolo Griffin and Seán Clancy.

To date, we have performed at UK events SAOM, Ealing Extranormal, AMOK, Don't Mind Control, Birmingham Modular Organisation and CODA Festival. In 2023, we undertook a mini tour of The Netherlands as part of the Sounding Here concert series, where we performed at Splendor in Amsterdam and Batavierhuis in Rotterdam.

In 2025, we co-hosted a portrait concert with saxophonist David Zychi featuring music by Paolo Griffin at the Hundred Years Gallery, and earlier that year, we supported Passepartout Duo at Centrala Space, Birmingham as part of their UK tour.

For a list of selected works, please go to the next page.

Patrick Ellis - List of Selected Works

2025

Spinning Around, Slowing Down

For Electric Guitar with Fidget Spinner + Fixed Media

To be premiered by Chris Cresswell

c. 9 minutes

Pathways, Passages

for Soprano Saxophone, Fixed Media + Visuals (from digital and Super 8 footage)

Premiered by Dauphine Van der Velpen at WORM, Rotterdam, NL, as part of the Sounding Here Series

c. 10 minutes

2024

Moments of Escapist Thoughts

for Bass Clarinet, Piano, Cello, Fixed Media + Visuals (from digital footage)

Premiered by Terra Invisus, January 2025 as part of their Residency at the Omnibus Theatre, London

c.9 minutes

Revisited, Repurposed

for Organ

Premiered by Huw Morgan, June 2024 as part of Mainly Slow Organ Music in Bristol

c. 5 minutes

Broken Superficiality

for Ensemble + Fixed Media

Premiered by Ensemble Klang, September 2024 as part of Gaudeamus Festival 2024 (Utrecht, NL)

c. 10 minutes

Augmentations and Extentations

for Chamber Ensemble + Fixed Media

Premiered by 315 Ensemble, May 2024 in Syracuse, New York, US

c. 10 minutes

2023

Passing Through

for Voice, Accordion + Fixed Media

Premiered by Paul Zaba, April 2023 in New Delhi, India

c. 2 minutes

2022

Between Two Trios

for Live + Pre-Recorded String Trios

Premiered by Kirkos, September 2022 at the Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, Ireland

c. 7 minutes

Fractured Motion

for Saxophone Quartet, Fixed Media (quadraphonic audio) + Visuals (from archival footage)

Premiered by the Tantrum Saxophone Quartet, May 2022 at Het Cenakel, Tilburg, NL as part of De Link

c. 15 minutes

2021

Objects and Portrait Projections

for Objects, Fixed Media + Visuals (from digital and archival footage)

Premiered by XTRO, June 2021 at PAARD, Den Haag, NL (online) as part of Dag in de Branding (NL)

c. 8 minutes

2020

Around the Clocks

for Flexible Outdoor Ensemble

Performed in different locations around Dublin, Ireland between September - October 2020, as part of the Biosphere Festival
c. 1 hour

Combinations, Phrases

for Viola

Featured on the Birmingham Record Company album, 'Inner Voices' (2021)

c. 6 minutes

Shrouded: Together and Against

for Piano

Recorded as part of the Psappha Ensemble Scheme 2019-20

c. 6 minutes

2019

Within an Orbit

for Mixed Ensemble

Premiered in April 2021 by The Spaceship Ensemble at Studio Loos, Den Haag

c. 8 minutes

Three Mostly Bowed Strings

for Bowed Krontjong Cello

Premiered by Alfian Emir Adytia in Den Haag

c. 6 minutes

Seufzer

for Chamber Ensemble

Premiered by the New European Ensemble at the Korea Theatre, Den Haag

c. 4 minutes

Ruin

for Large Ensemble and Voices

Premiered by Orkest de Ereprijs in February 2019 as part of the 25th Young Composers Meeting in Apeldoorn, NL

c. 3 minutes

2018

Components

for Symphony Orchestra

Premiered by the Residentie Orkest in October 2018, as part of Festival Dag in de Branding (NL)

c. 5 minutes

Detunes, Drones

for Electric Guitar and Fixed Media

Premiered by Chris Cresswell in March 2019 in New York, US

c. 8 minutes

Breath, Patterns, Bends

for Solo Flute

Premiered by Kathryn Williams in July 2018 in Oslo, NO

Later included as part of Larry Goves' Coming Up for Air Concerto

c. 30 seconds

Unfolding Chamber Piece

for Amplified Chamber Ensemble

Premiered by Kluster 5 at the Korea Theater, Den Haag, NL

c. 6 minutes